



U.S. Department of Transportation

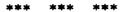
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Dear Crash Data Researchers/Users:

Thank you for choosing crash data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for your research or other use. The information contained in this motor vehicle crash report is collected, maintained and distributed in accordance with Public Law 89-564. In accordance with this Public Law, NHTSA is required not to release any case information until completion of quality control procedures. These procedures include a review of the case material to extract all names, licenses and registration numbers, non-coded interview material, non-research related researcher comments in the margins, non-factual data, and the production number portion of the vehicle identification number (VIN).

If you requested NHTSA to query its database files in order to identify a specific crash, then that query was made using non-personal descriptors you provided for use in our search. This motor vehicle crash may have been identified from a data search and matches the general, non-personal descriptors you provided, but we cannot confirm that this is the specific crash report you requested.

If you have any questions with regard to the above procedures, please contact the Field Operations Branch, Crash Investigation Division, National Center for Statistics and Analysis at 202-366-4820. Again, please be advised that we cannot confirm that this is the case that you have specifically requested nor can we certify the information to be correct.





DYNAMIC SCIENCE, INC. In-Depth Accident Investigation

Contract DTNH22-94-A-07049 Case DSI-96-SB-02

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

CONTRACTOR: CONTRACT NUMBER: Dynamic Science, Inc. DTNH22-94-D-27058

CASE NUMBER:

Case DSI-96-SB-02

This case was selected due to a nylon coat drawstring becoming entrapped in a school bus hand rail and the wearer being dragged and run over by the school bus.

This school bus incident occurred in the afternoon hours of a winter weekdav 1996) on a two-lane, asphalt paved, urban roadway in . The temperature at the time of the incident was estimated to have been between -4° and -1° C (25° and 30° F).

The school bus, a 1992 Volunteer 66 passenger conventional coach, was being driven by a 45 year old male on a regularly scheduled route.

The case subject, a 14 year old female, who was approximately 160 cm (63 in) in height and 52 kg (115 lb) in weight, was one of four passengers on the school bus. She was wearing a dark colored, waist length nylon coat with a drawstring at the lower edge of the garment. The coat, manufactured by Head, was being worn open at the time of this incident.

As the case subject departed the bus, at her regular stop, the right end of her coat's drawstring became entrapped at the point where the lower end of the grab rail attaches to the entrance door body pillar of the bus. When both the case subject's feet were on the ground, the bus driver closed the door and began to drive to his next stop.

The case subject was dragged westbound approximately 32 m (105 ft), at which point, the bus turned into an intersecting north/south roadway. The case subject was dragged an additional 29 m (96 ft) northbound at which time her coat was apparently pulled from her arms and she rolled under the right rear dual wheels of the bus as it negotiated a right turning curve with a radius of 18 m (60 ft).

As the right rear dual wheels of the bus passed over the case subject, the driver and three remaining passengers felt a bump, which they attributed to the bus striking the inner curb of the right turning curve. The bus, without stopping, continued to the next stop where the case subject's coat was found near the door with the drawstring still attached to the grab rail. The driver immediately retraced his route and the case subject was found lying in the roadway near the inner curb of the right turning curve.

The case subject sustained a closed head injury/blunt head trauma (NFS - AIS unknown), a lower left abdominal laceration of more than 20 cm (AIS-2), abrasions (AIS-1) and contusions (AIS-1) of the face, chest and abdomen. She was transported by land to a where she expired 1.5 hours post event.

Two weeks prior to this incident. a NHTSA regional staff member inspected some of the school buses in

He found that a number of the buses either had been repaired improperly or not at all. The staff person provided instructions for obtaining the repair parts from the manufacturer and how to install them correctly.

This document is disseminated under the sponsorship of the Department of Transportation in the interest of information exchange. The United States Government assumes no responsibility for the contents or use thereof.

The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The crash investigation process is an inexact science which requires that physical evidence such as skid marks, vehicular damage measurements, and occupant contact points be coupled with the investigator's expert knowledge and experience of vehicle dynamics and occupant kinematics in order to determine the pre-crash, crash, and post-crash movements of involved vehicles and occupants.

Because each crash is a unique sequence of events, generalized conclusions cannot be made concerning the crashworthiness performance of the involved vehicle(s) or their safety systems.

DYNAMIC SCIENCE, INC. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION CASE NUMBER: DSI-96-SB-02

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Accident Data 1
Ambience
Roadway
Traffic Controls
Vehicles
Vehicle Damage and Velocity Estimates
Event Sequence 6
Kinematics
Safety Standards
School Bus Field-of-View Test
Case Subject Data
Injuries
List of Abbreviations
Accident Schematic
Scene Measurement Table
Photo Index and Photos

Appendices:

News Article NHTSA NEWS Recall Notice

ACCIDENT DATA:	
Location:	
Area/Type:	Urban/residential
Date/Time:	Winter weekday/Afternoon
Accident Type:	School bus/pedestrian - dragging and run over
INJURY SEVERITY:	
Vehicle 1:	Driver, not injured
	3 Occupants, not injured
Pedestrian (case subject):	Dragged subject (Fatal)
AMBIENCE:	
Viewing Conditions:	No viewing restrictions
Cloud Cover:	Clear
Precipitation:	None

Dry

-4 to -1° C (25 to 30° F)

Temperature: Road Surface:

ROADWAY:

ROADWAY 1 ROADWAY 2

Type: 2-lane, undivided 2-lane, undivided

Width: 6.7 m (22.0 ft) 9.1 m (30.0 ft)

Traffic Density: No other traffic No other traffic

Median: None None

Edge: Grass 15.2 cm (6 in) raised

concrete curbs

Surface: Asphalt Asphalt

Reported Defects: None None

Co-efficient of Friction: .75 .75

Vertical Alignment: 2% downgrade 7% upgrade

Horizontal Alignment: Straight Right turning curve R = 18.4 m (60.3 ft)

TRAFFIC CONTROLS:

ROADWAY 1

ROADWAY 2

Signals:

None

None

Signs:

None

None

Speed Limit:

56 Km/h (35 MPH)

40 Km/h (25 MPH)

Markings:

Double, solid yellow painted lines separate

None

E/B and W/B travel

lanes.

VEHICLES:

VEHICLE 1

Description: 1992 International incomplete - wheel base

646 cm (254 in)

Odometer: 96,223 km

(59,792 mi)

Engine: I6/ 5.9 L Diesel

Vehicle Modifications: American Transportation Corporation 66

passenger "Ward" conventional school bus

body

Tire Condition: Front - Good 30 to 35% treadwear

Rear - Fair 55 to 60% treadwear No abnormal treadwear patterns

Manual Restraints: 2-point, manual lap restraints at all seating

positions

Automatic Restraints: None

Reported Defects: No mechanical defects reported by police

Cargo: 3 students

Windshield Damage: None

Fleet: Private School Transport Corporation

Tow Status: No damage, towed for inspection

impoundment

VEHICLE DAMAGE:

VEHICLE 1

Object Struck:

Dragged and ran over pedestrian -

no damage

Event Number:

N/A

CDC:

N/A

Maximum Crush:

N/A

VEHICLE VELOCITY ESTIMATES:

VEHICLE 1

Travel Speed:

Vehicle probably did not exceed

32 Km/h (20 MPH)

Impact Speed:

N/A

(estimated)

Total Delta V:

N/A

Longitudinal Delta V:

N/A

Lateral Delta V:

N/A

Energy Dissipation:

N/A

EVENT SEQUENCE:

Pre-Event:

This school bus incident occurred in the afternoon hours of a winter weekday on 2 two-lane, asphalt paved, urban/residential roadways in

The weather was clear, the roadways were dry and free of defects and there were no viewing restrictions. The temperature was estimated to have been between -4 and -1 degrees C (25 to 30 degrees F). There was no other traffic at the time of this incident.

Roadway 1 is a 6.7 m (22.0 ft) undivided, east/west roadway with grass edges, and a speed limit of 56 km/h (35 MPH). The roadway is straight with a negative 2% downgrade for westbound traffic. The estimated co-efficient of friction is .75.

Roadway 1 is intersected at its north edge in a "T" configuration by Roadway 2. Roadway 2 is a 9.1 m (30.0 ft) undivided, north/south roadway edged on the east and west by 15 cm (6 in) raised concrete curbs. At its intersection with Roadway 1, Roadway 2 has a positive 7% upgrade for northbound traffic. Approximately 27 m (90 ft) north of the intersection there is a right turning curve with a radius of 18.4 m (60.3 ft). The estimated co-efficient of friction for Roadway 2 is .75, and the speed limit is 40 km/h (25 MPH).

The vehicle involved in this incident is a 66 passenger conventional school bus manufactured on

the mileage on the school bus was 96,223 km (59,792 mi).

The model number is SS2909-66, and the serial number is

The bus is painted National Chrome yellow. The bus was built on an incomplete International school bus frame manufactured on 1991 by

The VIN for this vehicle is

1HVBBNKN7NHxxxxxx, and it is equipped with an I6/5.9L diesel engine, automatic transmission and air brakes. At the time of Dynamic Science's on-site inspection, which occurred 6 days post event and within 96 hours of notification,

Vehicle inspection decals are displayed on the lower right quadrant of the right windshield and the lower left quadrant of the left windshield. The dates of inspection could not be read, but the decals appeared to be of the current year. The position of the left decal tended to interfere with the driver's view of the left side convex mirrors (see school bus field-of-view test results).

The 1992 66 passenger conventional school bus has a two step entry/exit stepwell with a two panel, inward opening bi-fold door. With the doors closed the bottom step measures 89.7 cm (35.3 in) in width, but with the doors open, the effective usable width is 60 cm (23.6 in). The stepwell is also equipped with a 4 cm (1.6 in) diameter tubular stainless steel grab rail mounted on the right side of the well as one exits the bus. The lower end of the grab rail is attached to the entrance door body pillar of the bus at a 55° angle and 1 cm. (0.4 in.) from the modesty panel (see figure 3).

The grab rail and modesty panel had not been modified as recommended by in a safety recall notification (dated 93). Due to a lack of local cooperation, it could not be determined why the school grab rail had not been remedied. In addition, for the same reason, it could not be determined who, if anyone, received the pertinent recall notices.

The school bus was being driven by a 45 year old male whose height and weight could not be determined. The driver was seated in a normal, upright position on a pedestal mounted bucket seat which appeared to have been adjusted to, or near, the rearmost seat track position. The driver was properly restrained by the available two-point, manual lap restraint. The bus driver's school bus driving experience and his familiarity with the bus route, could not be determined due to a lack of cooperation from local authorities.

In addition to the driver, there were four student passengers aboard the school bus. These passengers ranged in age from 14 to 16 years of age. The case subject, who was one of the four student passengers, was a 14 year old female who weighed approximately 52 kg (115 lb) and was approximately 160 cm (63 in) in height. The clothing worn by the case occupant was not available for inspection, but her outer garment was a dark colored, down filled, nylon waist length coat that was manufactured by and she was wearing jeans of an unknown color or size (see Police Photos 68-76).

Access to the coat for inspection was denied by the local police, however, a Polaroid photograph of the coat revealed that it had a single drawstring located at the lower edge of the garment and appeared to be a "medium" size. The drawstring appeared to be nylon, approximately 127 cm (50 in) in length, approximately .6 cm (.25 in) in diameter and had a 1 cm (.4 in) bead at each end. There were no cord locks observed on the drawstring. The right side of the coat was "bunched" against the left end of the drawstring and approximately 91 cm (36 in) of the drawstring was pulled from the right cord passageway eyelet. The photograph did not reveal any tears, scuffs or abrasions on the coat fabric.

The driver of the westbound school bus stopped at the driveway of the case subject's home to discharge her at her regular stop.

Event:

The case subject was wearing her coat open, and as she was departing the bus, the right drawstring bead caught, and wedged, in the lower grab rail/entrance door body pillar attachment point angle. The entrapment point is 100 cm (43.3 in) above ground level.

Upon the case subject clearing the bottom step of the stepwell, the driver, apparently without looking into the stepwell or in the right side rear view mirrors, closed the door and immediately began to drive west to his next scheduled stop.

The case subject was dragged 32 m (105 ft) west at which point the bus turned right into the intersecting north/south roadway. The entrapped case subject was dragged an additional 29 m (96 ft) at which point she either freed herself from the coat, or it was pulled from her arms and she fell under the bus as it was negotiating the right turning curve.

It appears that the case subject fell on her back with her head toward the inner curb of the right turning curve. The right rear, dual wheels of the bus appear to have impacted her left hip and rolled over her abdomen, chest and head at a 5 to 10 degree angle.

Post-Event:

As the school bus was negotiating a right turning curve, the driver and the three remaining occupants felt a bump they attributed to, at the time, the bus striking the inner curb of the right turning curve. Without checking the bus' rearview mirrors, the driver continued to his next scheduled stop. As the student departed the bus at this stop, the case subject's coat was found outside the bus with the drawstring still entrapped at the grab rail.

Upon removing the drawstring from the grab rail, the driver immediately retraced his route and the case subject was found lying in the roadway near the inner curb of the right turning curve.

The case subject sustained a closed head injury/blunt head trauma (NFS - AIS-unknown), a laceration of greater than 20 cm of the lower left abdomen groin area (AIS-2), abrasions (AIS-1) and contusions (AIS-1) of the face, chest and abdomen. She was transported by land from the scene to a local hospital where she expired, approximately 1.5 hours after arrival, due to injuries sustained during this event.

Kinematics:

Due to a lack of residual scene evidence and local government cooperation, the kinematics of the case subject could not be determined. However, based upon the size of Vehicle 1, the relatively short straight-line distances and the lack of visible damage to the case subject's coat, it is probably that the bus did not exceed a speed of 32 km/h (20 MPH) during this event. It is also possible that the case subject did not lose her footing until the coat was removed from her arms, although damage to the coat could not be determined with certainty from the review of the photograph.

Safety Standards:

Vehicle not remedied in accordance with (NHTSA reca? 93V-032.002).

safety recall 93001

1. Entrance door grab rail attachment at body pillar - attachment was not modified as recommended by in paragraph 5 of safety recall notification dated 93

BEST AVAILABLE Case: DSI-96-SB-02

2. Right Front Seat Modesty Panel - Panel position was not modified as recommended by in paragraph 5 of safety recall notification dated 93

Case Considerations:

The following are not violations of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, but are deemed to be contributing factors to this incident.

- 1. Entrance Door/Stepwell: The entry door of the passenger conventional school bus is a two panel, inward opening bi-fold door that measures 89.7 cm (35.3 in) in width. The three step stepwell width measures 55 cm (21.7 in) at bus floor, 65.5 cm (25.8 in) at the front of step 2 and 89.7 cm (35.3 in) at the front of the bottom step. As the bi-fold door opens inward into the stepwell, the effective usable space on the bottom step and step 2 is reduced to 60 cm (23.6 in). Because of the narrowness, clothes and other loose items are easily caught, entangled or wedged into the projecting handrail especially when passengers are wearing bulky, cold weather clothing (see Figures 2 and 3).
- 2. Coat Drawstring: The decorative 1 cm (.4 in) bead at the right end of the lower drawstring of the case subject's coat contributed to the entrapment. The beads appeared to have been constructed of plastic, or hard nylon, and appeared to be virtually unbreakable. The drawstring appears to have been approximately .6 cm (.25 in) in diameter and constructed of a cord of unknown composition wrapped with nylon. This cord, too, is virtually unbreakable.

In this incident, as in earlier incidents, the strength of this type of cord does not allow a subject to break free when accidentally entrapped by objects.

3. Rearview mirrors: The case school bus was properly equipped with rectangular and convex rearview mirrors, but the driver did not have them properly adjusted and could not have been able to observe the case subject being dragged by his bus (see school bus field-of-view test).

SCHOOL BUS FIELD-OF-VIEW TEST:

This school bus field-of-view test was conducted by Dynamic Science, Inc. six days post event using orange colored test cylinders measuring 30.5 cm (12 in) in height and 30.5 cm (12 in) in diameter. The test cylinders were positioned as depicted in Figure 1.

This test was conducted on a 1992 Ward Volunteer 66 passenger conventional school bus with two standard rectangular rear view mirrors mounted on the left and right "A" pillars. In addition, four convex cross front and side view mirrors were mounted on the left and right front

fenders. The convex mirrors measured 20 cm (8 in) in diameter.

According to police investigators, the bus had been impounded from the scene of the incident and the mirrors, and driver's seat, had not been adjusted, or tampered with, since the time of impoundment.

The test was conducted from the driver's seat, which was adjusted to the rearmost seat track position (see Photo 39). The tester was seated, facing forward, in a normal, upright seated position.

Forward view (no mirrors) - Test cylinders A, B and C were visible. Test cylinders D through I could not be seen (see Photo 33).

<u>Left side rectangular rearview mirror</u> - Only test cylinder M was visible, test cylinders J and L could not be seen (photos 30 and 31 - note position of inspection decal).

<u>Left side view convex mirror</u> - Test cylinders J and L were visible. Test cylinder M could not be seen (Photos 28 and 29).

<u>Left cross front view convex mirror</u> - Test cylinders H and I were visible. Test cylinders A through G could not be seen (see Photos 28 and 29).

Right side rectangular rearview mirror - Test cylinders K, N, O and P could not be seen (photos 28 and 29).

Right side view convex mirror - Test cylinders N, O and P were visible. Test cylinder K could not be seen (Photos 34 and 35).

Right cross front view convex mirror - Test cylinders C, F and E were visible. Test cylinders A, B, D, G, H and I could not be seen (see Photos 34 and 35).

The test cylinders D, K and G were not visible in any mirror or frontal view in this field-of-view test.

In addition to the above referenced photos, the field-of-view test was recorded on video tape which accompanies this report.

DRIVER AND OTHER OCCUPANTS:

VEHICLE 1

DRIVER

Age/Sex:

45 year old/Male

Seated Position:

Left Front

Seat Type:

Pedestal mounted bucket

Height:

Unknown

Weight:

Unknown

Occupation:

School bus driver

Pre-existing Medical

Condition:

None known

Alcohol Involvement:

None

Drug Involvement:

None

Driving Experience:

Unknown

Body Posture:

Normal, upright seated

position

Hand Position:

Both hands on steering wheel rim at unknown "o'clock" positions

Foot Position:

Left foot on floor/toe pan, right foot on accelerator

pedal

Restraint Usage:

2-point, manual lap restraint

Additional Occupants:

3 (not listed - not involved

in incident)

PEDESTRIAN:

Pedestrian

(case subject)

Age/Sex: 14 year old/Female

Seated Position: Outside of bus

Seat Type: N/A

Height: approx. 160 cm (63 in)

Weight: approx. 52 kg (115 lb)

Occupation: Student

Pre-existing Medical None known Condition:

Alcohol Involvement: None

Driving Experience: N/A

Body Posture: Standing (erect)

Hand Position: Unknown

Foot Position: Both feet on ground

Restraint Usage: N/A

INJURIES:

Vehicle 1

INJURY

OIC CODE

ICD-9 SOURCE

DRIVER:

Not injured

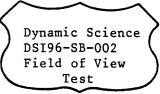
3 UNINVOLVED OCCUPANTS:

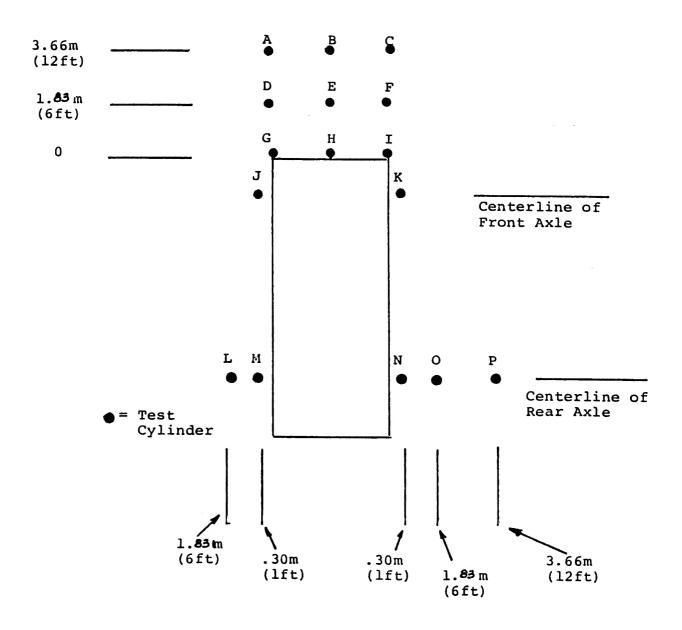
Not injured

INJURIES:

Pedestrian (case subject):

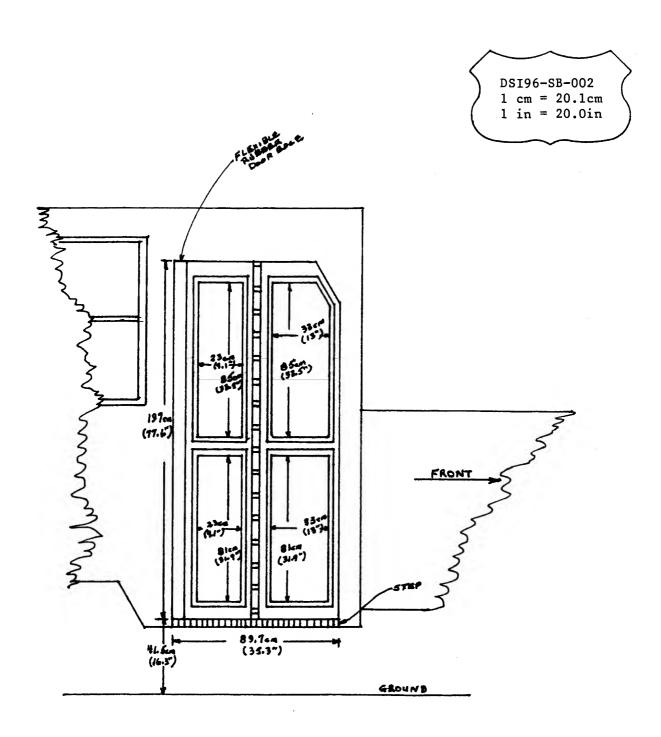
INJURY	OIC/AIS CODE	ICD-9	SOURCE
closed head injury/Blunt head Trauma (NFS)	8115099.7,05121100	854.0	Right rear dual wheels
Laceration, lower left abdomen >20 cm	8590604.2,25121100	879.3	Right rear dual wheels
Abrasions, Face	8290202.1,05121100	910.0	Right rear dual wheels
Contusions, Face	8290402.1,05121100	920	Right rear dual wheels
Abrasions, Chest	8490202.1,05121100	911.0	Right rear dual wheels
Contusions, Chest	8490402.1,05121100	922.1	Right rear dual wheels
Abrasions, Abdomen	8590202.1,05121100	911.0	Right rear dual wheels
Contusions, Abdomen	8590402.1,05121100	922.2	Right rear dual wheels





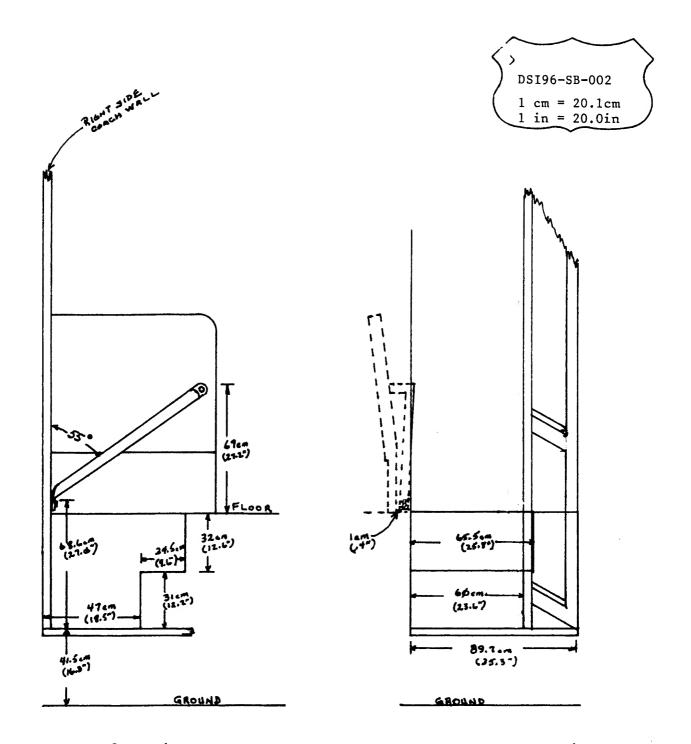
LOCATION OF TEST CYLINDERS FOR SCHOOL BUS FIELD-OF-VIEW TEST

Figure 1



Bus Door, CLOSED - EXTERIDA VIEW

Figure 2



SIDE VIEW

FRONT VIEW (DOOR OPEN)

STEP WELL
Figure 3

List of Abbreviations

FT Feet INInches

AME After Market Equipment AIS Abreviated Injury Scale

CCW Counterclockwise

CDC Collision Deformation Classificatification

C/F Center Front CG Center of Gravity CMCentimeter

C/R Center Rear Clockwise **CW**

E, EB East, Eastbound **Final Rest Position FRP**

KG Kilogram

Kilometers per Hour KM/H

L/F Left Front L/R Left Rear M Meter

N, NB North, Northbound

NE Northeast NW Northwest

OEM Original Equipment Manufacturer

Principal Direction of Force **PDOF**

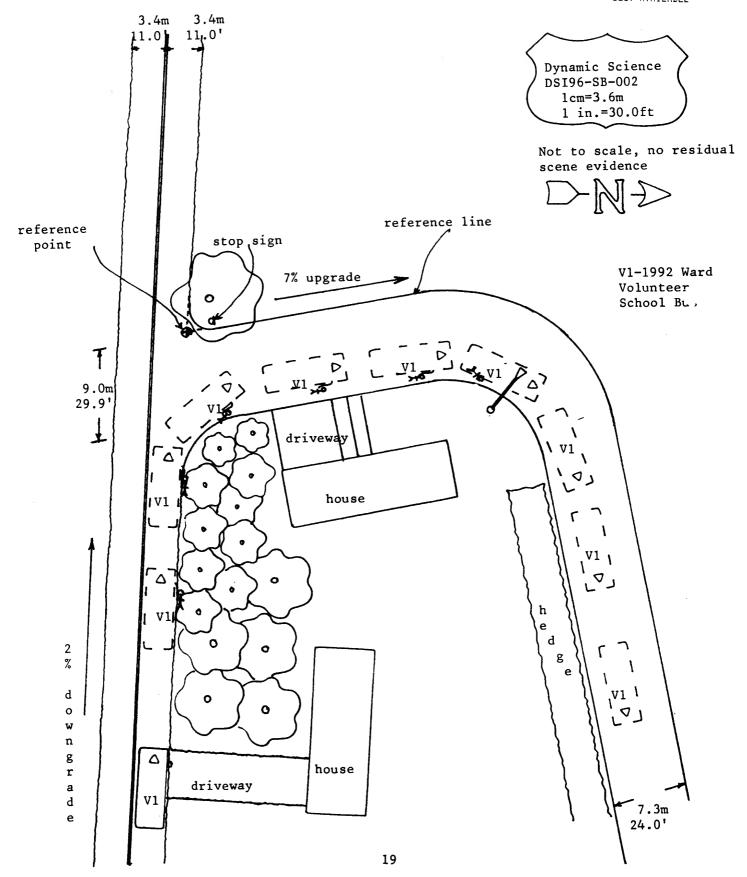
POI Point of Impact Radius of Curvature R

R/F Right front RLReference Line RP Reference Point R/R Right rear

South, Southbound S, SB

SE Southeast SW Southwest V1 Vehicle 1

W, WB West, Westbound



SCENE MEASUREMENTS Case Number DSI-96-SB-02

BEST AVAILABLE

Reference Point:

N edge, E/W road, W edge, N/S road - extended

Reference Line:

W edge N/S of roadway

DATA POINT	DISTANCE AND DIRECTION FROM REFERENCE POINT	DISTANCE AND DIRECTION FROM REFERENCE LINE
N edge E/W roadway	0	0
Double, yellow center line	3.3 m (10.9 ft) S	0
S edge E/W roadway	6.7 m (22 ft) S	0
W edge N/S roadway	15.2 m (50 ft) N	0
E edge N/S roadway	15.2 m (50 ft) N	9.0 m (29.9 ft) E
Approximate point of occupant discharge (drag to begin)	0	42.7 m (140 ft) E
Approximate FRP case subject (drag ends)	29.3 m (96 ft) N	9.1 m (30 ft) E

PHOTO INDEX

BEST AVAILABLE

Case No. DSI-96-SB-02

PHOTO NO.	VEHICLE NO.	ORIENTATION	SUBJECT MATTER
1		E	Reverse drag path from start of drag
2-5		N	Drag path
6-7		N	Victims approximate FRP
8-11		S	Reverse drag path
12-27		CCW	Exterior views of Vehicle 1 & cone placements for Field-of-view tests. Photos 24 & 25 - R/R dual and fuel tank protection Photo 26 - Step well
28-29	V1	left	Left cross front and side view convex mirrors, field of view test
30-31	V1	left	Left side rectangular rear view mirror, field of view test
32-33	V 1	front	Front view of Field-of-view test - no mirrors
34-35	V1	right	Right cross front and side view convex mirrors, field of view test
36-37	V1	right	Right side rectangular rear view mirror, field of view test
38-40	V1		Driver's seat, seat adjustment and door opener/opener lock
41-43	V1		Front bulk head and manufacturer's plates
44-47	V1		Front door/step well
48-59	V1		Hand rail/step well Photo 49 - driver's view of stepwell/handrail

















































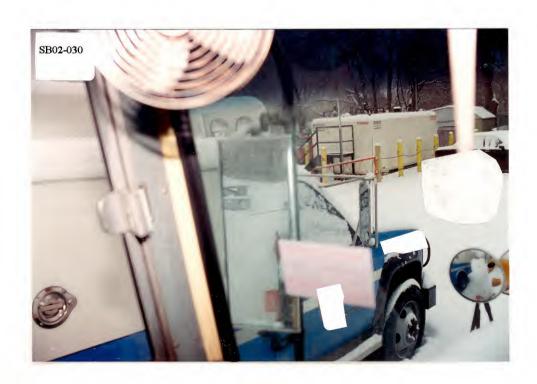






















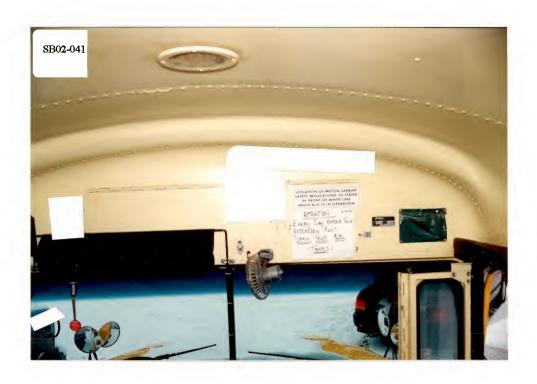


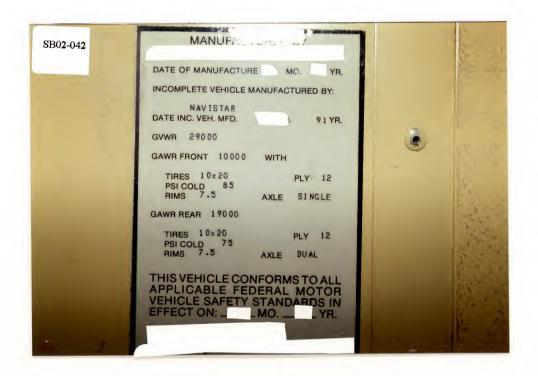




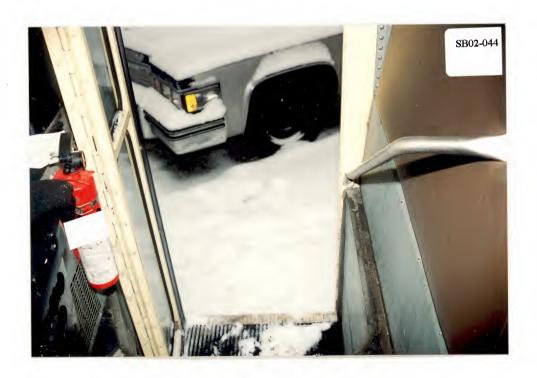












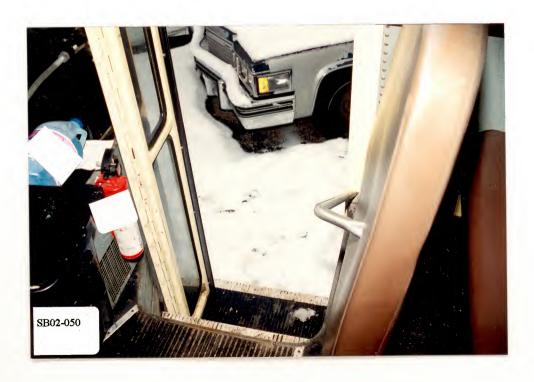






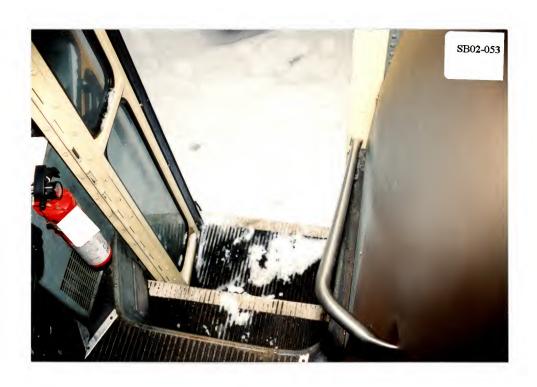




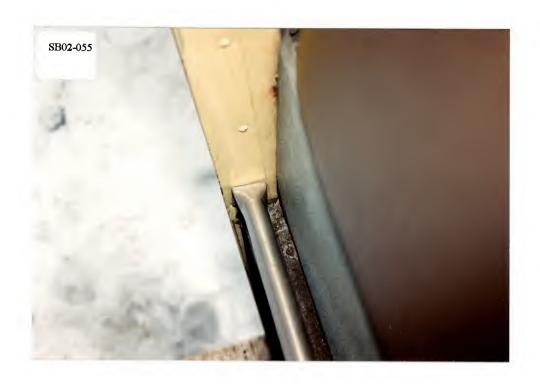






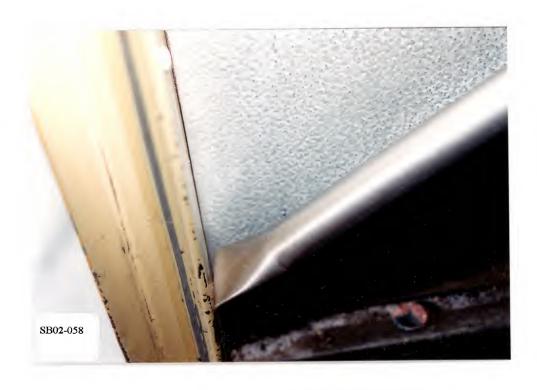


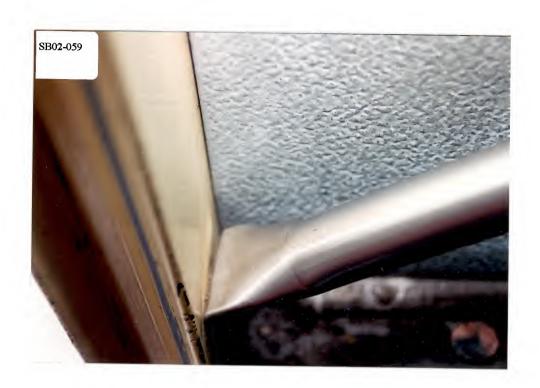












SELECTED POLICE PHOTOS

Case No. DSI-96-SB-02

РНОТО NO.	SUBJECT MATTER
60-61	Scene - FRP, books and notebook - case subject
62-63	Vehicle 1, possible pedestrian contacts
63	Vehicle 1, right rear dual wheel
65	Vehicle 1, R/F windshield, Vehicle inspection and registration decals
68	Vehicle 1, stepwell, grab rail and modesty panel
67	Case subject's notebook with abrasion and tread mark
68	Jeans worn by case subject
69	Case subject's coat - front view
70	Case subject's coat - label
71-72	Case subject's coat - back view
73	Case subject's coat - drawstring pucker, back view
74	Case subject's coat - drawstring, right side
75-76	Case subject's coat - drawstring and drawstring end bead



BEST AVAILABLE

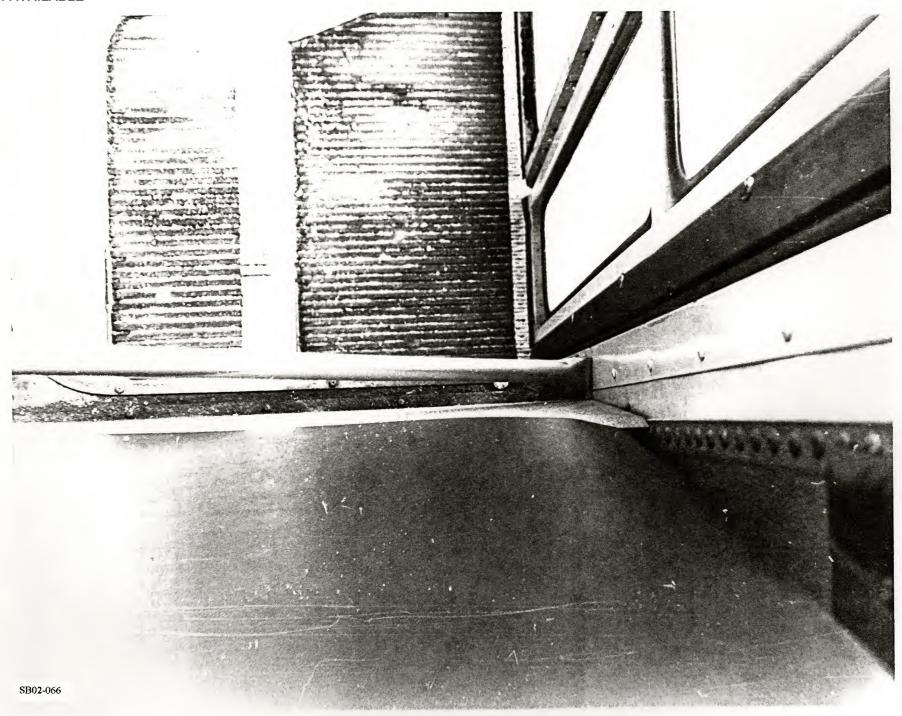


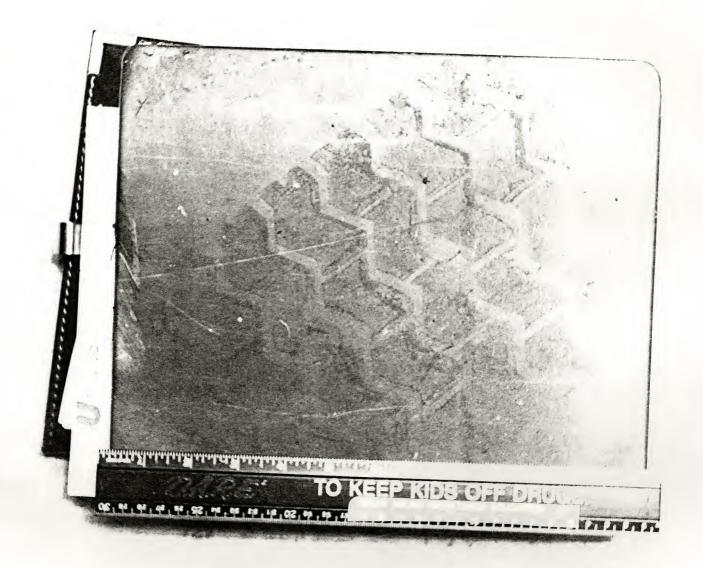






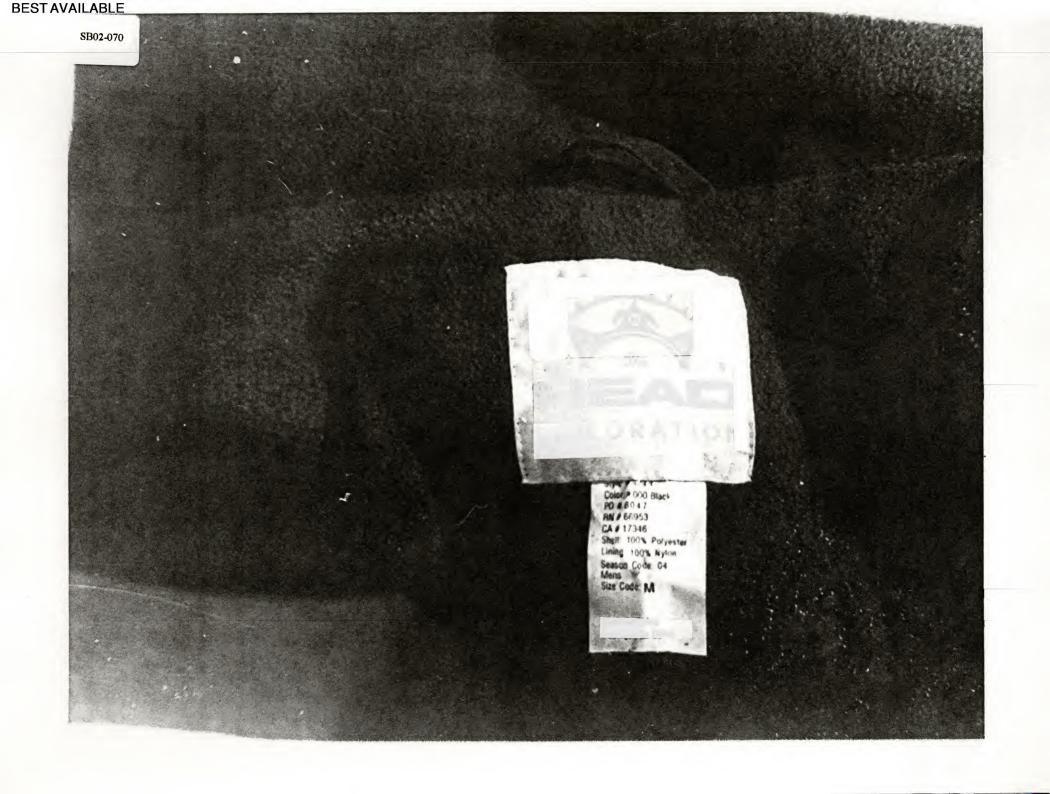




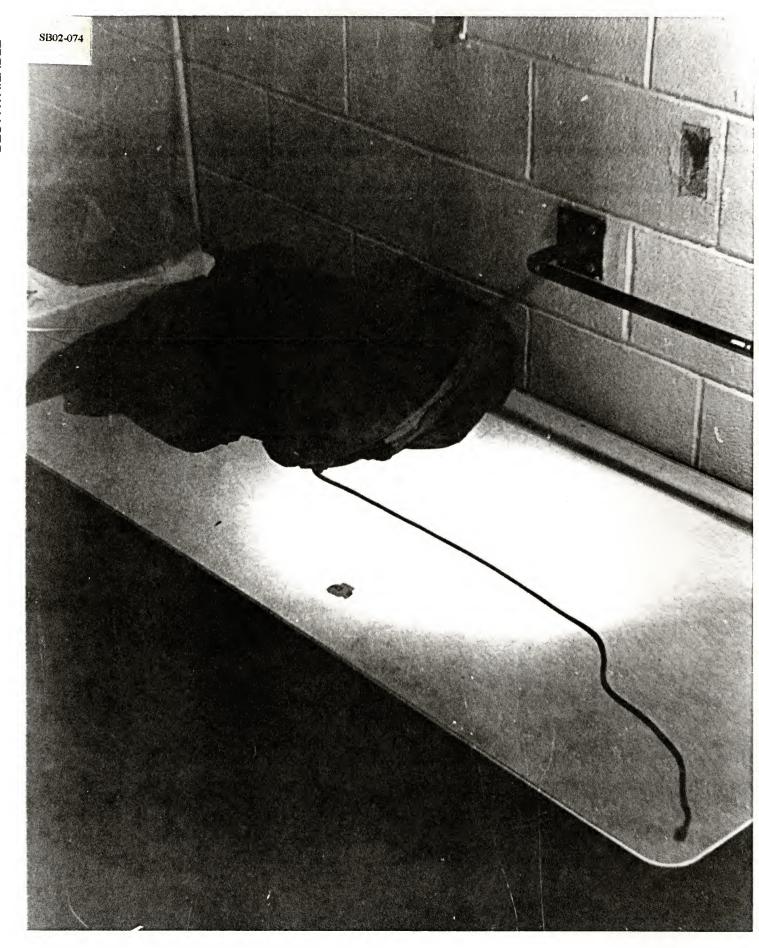


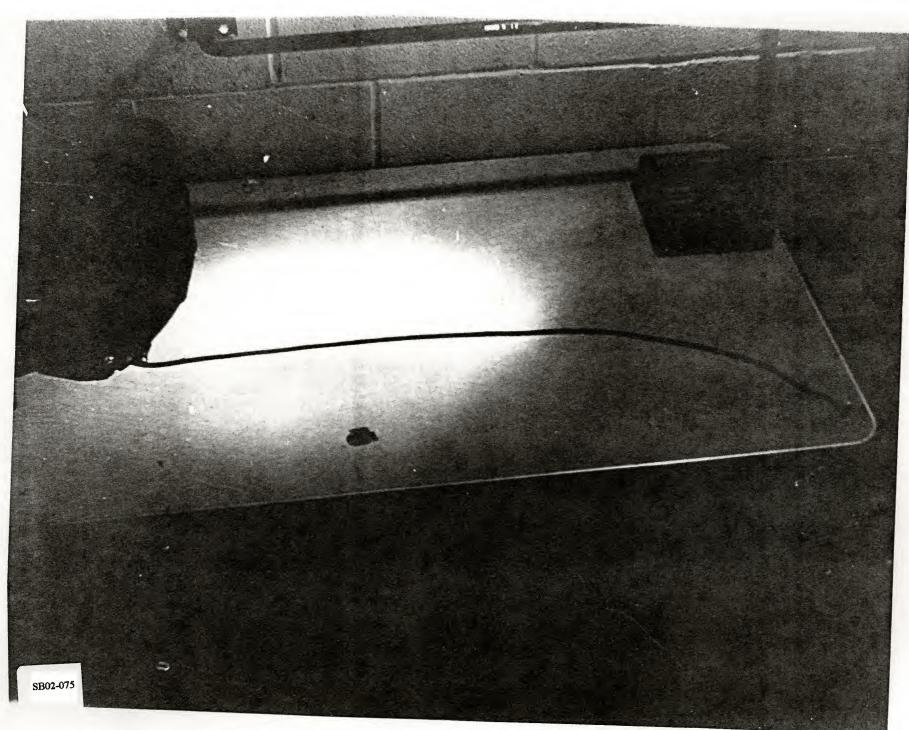


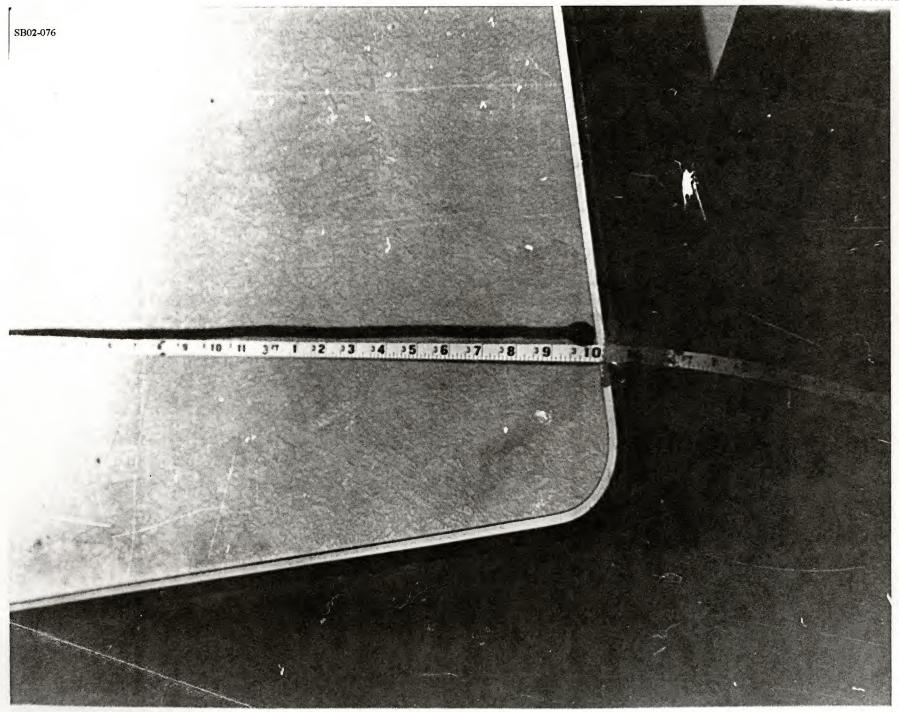












d by school

1-year-old found-bleeding in road after getting off bus

: 14-year-old Rit d yesterday afternoon after was hit by the school bus she ce said

14. 0! id was pronounced dead at member, said her son, ting to the iedical Examiner's Office. he accident occurred about 3.

p.m. on of a mile from home.

was found unconscious and bleeding in the roadway on Lane, police snirt. police

just gotten off near her home, would not say where the bus was n9dw was found.

> County Medical Cen- was the first to call for help after at 4.37 p.m., ac- he turned onto Lane in his Coun- car and saw body in the road

> > "He didn't know what hap-

Lane about a tenth pened at first," she said. "After he got someone to call 911, he saw the bus coming back down the road and realized what must have happened."

> was treated by police paramedics and taken by a police ambulance to the center.

The identity of the bus driver mother. is being withheld because he is considered a witness to the accident said spokesman for the County District Attorney's Office.

"Anyone who saw anything to do with the accident is considered a witness' said. He said that it was too early in the investigation to determine whether criminal charges would be filed.

The bus is owned by αf

Upon hearing about the accischools superintendent and high school principal, called met mothat the medical center where they both learned that friends," be said. had died.

No one answered the door at kome last night. the

A ninth-grader at the big came to the school. school district two year said

"She was a terrific kid who wa well-adjusted to the high school and liked by all," he said

" contacted school guid ance counselors last night to noti death lie asker Iv them of the counselors to exitect closest friends immediately to of fer some comfort.

"She had a good number o

were too dis Friends of traught to talk about the girl wher they were reached last night.



1993

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NHTSA

93

Contact:

Tel. No.:

NHTSA WARNS OF SCHOOL BUS DANGERS INVOLVING SNAGGED CLOTHING

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) today warned school bus drivers, parents and children about the dangers of children being dragged by the bus after their clothing is snagged while exiting.

During the past year, the agency has learned of several serious incidents, including two fatalities, involving full-size school buses. In each incident, a child leaving the bus snagged an article of clothing or part of a bookbag in the handrail on the right side of the stairway to the bus entrance door. The door was closed before the child had a chance to re-enter the bus to free the clothing or bag. The bus then dragged the victim as it pulled away from the stop.

NHTSA has notified all the state directors of pupil transportation of this potential danger to school children. Officials were asked to make drivers aware of these incidents and to be especially cautious, particularly at stops where there are no adults to help supervise the off-loading of students. The safety agency said that caution is particularly important during winter months when children wear bulky clothing which can be snagged more easily.

In addition, NHTSA requested detailed information from the major school bus manufacturers to determine the scope of this problem and how to prevent it. The agency has opened investigations of buses constructed by and to determine if there is a safety defect.

NHTSA stressed that the overall safety record of school buses is excellent. Most serious incidents occur when children are approaching or leaving the bus, and are struck by the bus or by another vehicle. Each school day, about 22 million children are transported more than 18 million miles in school buses.

1993

Subject: Safety Recall

Gentlemen:

Attached is a vehicle defect initial information report which is submitted pursuant to Parts 573.5, 151 (1), and 150 (1-6) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall.

Very truly yours,

Director of Engineering

Enclosures

xc:

.

BEST AVAILABLE

VEHICLE NON-COMPLIANCE INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Date:

1993

Recall No.

Make	Mode1	Model Year	No. of Vehicles	Manufacturi From	ng Dates Through	Other Identification Necessary to Describe Vehicle
WARD	SS1506-3306 Volunteer	1980- 1993	To be determined (est. 45K)	/80	/93	School bus
WARD	SFC2206-3803 Patriot	1983- 1990	To be determined (est. 1.5K)	⁷ 83	/90	School bus

VEHICLE NON-COMPLIANCE INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

No.

- 1. DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT: Certain and school buses have a small crevice at the attachment point of the entrance door grab rail to the entrance door body pillar. Also, the space between the grab rail and the modesty panel (if so equipped) may be less than 1 1/2".
- 2. RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY: The possibility exists for certain clothing articles such as draw strings to become lodged in these areas as a person is exiting the bus. If the driver is unaware of this situation, the entrance door may be closed, capturing the item in the door.
- 3. CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPLE EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF DEFECT:

 1993 We were contacted by about the potential problem on buses and buses manufactured by other companies. A letter from (NEF-121jah, PE93-908) was received on 1993 with a copy of a letter from stating that on 1987 a child was injured due to a draw string being caught on a bus. We are aware of no other incidents or claims of this nature relative to or buses.
- 4. MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REPAIR VEHICLE: Owners will be notified of the defect and a repair kit will be offered free of charge. The owners will be advised that they may make the modifications or contact an dealer for assistance.
- 5. REMEDY EXPENSE: will supply parts at no charge and reimburse owners for labor upon request.
- 6. EARLIEST DATE DEFECT TO BE REMEDIED: To be determined.
- 7. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: To be determined.
- 3. CAWER LETTER AND DEALER COMMUNICATIONS To follow when available.

BEST AVAILABLE

1993

SAFETY RECALL

Dear Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. has determined that a defect in the handrail system that relates to motor vehicle safety exists on certain school buses.

The buses involved are and (Volunteer) and model school buses built from 86 through 93. The vehicle identified on the enclosed card fits this description and our records show you as owner of this vehicle.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

If you are the owner, this is to notify you that your bus may have a defect in the attachment of the handrail located inside rear of the entrance door. A small gap may exist at the attachment of the grabrail to the wall. Also, insufficient clearance may exist between the modesty panel (located on the bottom of the crash barrier) and the grabuail. Certain small objects may be caught in these areas such as coat tie strings. Should this happen, and the driver is unaware of the situation, the person may exit the bus with the string caught in the crevice. The door may be closed and the bus moved causing possible injury to the passenger.

As a precaution, until your vehicle is inspected and repaired, you should inform all drivers to be aware of this potential problem.

When you return the enclosed postage paid reply card, an inspection and repair kit will be sent to you. The remedy will be to install a rubber pad on the grabrail where it attaches to the wall and to move the modesty panel to the rear far enough to attain 1/1/2of clearance with the grabrail. You may make these repairs yourself or take your vehicle dealer on a mutually agreed upon service date. If he does not remedy this condition without charge on or within 5 days, you can obtain assistance by calling Customer Service at the toll free number listed below. You may also wish to submit a

(Over)

Page 2

1993

complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,
or call the toll free Auto Safety Hot Line
at area residents may call if you believe
that or its dealer has failed to remedy the non-compliance without
charge, within a reasonable time, which is no longer than 60 days after you first tender to
obtain repair.

In the event you no longer own the vehicle described, please fill in the requested information on the enclosed postage-paid card and return it to us. This will enable us to notify the correct owner.

If you have questions concerning this notification, please contact an authorized school bus body dealer. You may locate your nearest dealer by calling Or, you may call our at

Sincerely,

RECALL NOTIFICATION REPLY CARD

RECALL NO						
If you no longer own the vehicle identified,	Change of Ownership Vahicle Sold Ta:					
please indicate to whom you sold the vehicle by filling out	Name					
the change of owner-	Street or P.O. Box					
	City, State, & Zip					

Please return this card promptly to the hadress shown on the reverse side.

Check One

	Please send a repair let & instructions, "no charge", my correct address is shown below							
7	t will orrange for repairs with my tocal Amilron declar.							
- 1	Vehicle scrappert.							
	I have never owned the vahiale Ested.							
	Owner/School							
	Street or 12.0. How							
	City, State, & Ap-							
	Authorized signature data (owner)							

11	1	1	11
II	ı	1	
"	4	•	11

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO.

MI PHETALE IT HAIL LD JUL MI ZENE GEIME

BEST AVAILABLE

ATTENTION:

Marketellandlindelelelelelelele